

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Multimeter~~ A multimeter instrument for measuring a plurality of variables, ~~such as the current or voltage of an electrical signal or the electrical resistance of a circuit,~~ the instrument comprising:

a plurality of measurement means ~~(15)~~, each measurement means being associated with a ~~predetermined~~ respective variable, and

a device ~~(20)~~ for selection of the variable to be measured, ~~characterized by the fact that~~

a selection device ~~(20)~~ has having touch-sensitive zones ~~(21)~~ for selection of the variable to be measured, and

~~a means (22) of for~~ activating the measurement means ~~(15)~~ associated with the variable selected ~~with the aid of~~ and including touch-sensitive selection zones ~~(21)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Instrument~~ The instrument according to Claim 1, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the means for activating the measuring means (22) includes a microprocessor (23), and each touch-sensitive selection zone ~~(21)~~ positioning a solid-state or electromechanical includes a relay in order to act on activating the microprocessor ~~(23)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Instrument~~ The instrument according to Claim 2, ~~characterized by the fact that it comprises~~ comprising a plurality of input sockets, wherein the activation means (22) comprising for activating the measuring means comprises a switching circuit ~~(24)~~ connecting the input sockets to the measurement means ~~(15)~~ and ~~whose configuration is~~ controlled by the microprocessor ~~(23)~~ as a function of the commands from the touch-sensitive selection zones ~~(21)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Instrument~~ The instrument according to ~~any one of Claims Claim 1 to 3,~~ characterized by the fact that wherein the variables are subdivided into several families, the touch-sensitive selection zones (21) comprising comprise touch-sensitive family zones ~~(211)~~ allowing one to select for selection of a family of variables, and touch-sensitive menu zones ~~(F1 to F5)~~ allowing one to select for selection of a variable within a family.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Instrument~~ The instrument according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 2, ~~characterized by the fact that it has a~~ comprising means of measuring ~~of the~~ electrical current, a current input socket ~~Ampère (41)~~ used ~~at least~~ when the ~~current measurement~~ means of measuring electrical current is selected, a measurement cord (44) ~~selectively connected by~~ connectable at a connecting end ~~(45)~~ to one of the sockets, and ~~a means for detecting the connection of the~~ connecting end (45) of the cord to the current input socket ~~Ampère (41)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Instrument~~ The instrument according to Claim 5, ~~characterized by the fact that Input~~ wherein the current input socket Ampère (41) has two half-sockets ~~(411)~~ electrically isolated from one another, the connecting end (45) of the cord ~~being equipped with~~ includes a plug (48) for short-circuiting the two half-sockets ~~(411)~~ when the connecting end (45) of the cord is connected to the current input socket ~~Ampère (41)~~, and the detection means detecting detects the short-circuiting of the two half-sockets ~~(411)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Instrument~~ The instrument according to ~~either of Claim 5 or 6, characterized by the fact that activation~~ wherein the means (22) for activating the measuring means automatically activates the means of measuring electrical current measurement means ~~provided that~~ when the detection means detects the connection of connecting end ~~(45)~~ of the cord to ~~Ampère~~ the current input socket ~~(411)~~ and that ~~the current was selected by means of the selection device (20) for selection of the variable to be measured.~~

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Instrument~~ The instrument according to ~~either of Claim 6 or 7, characterized by the fact that~~ wherein one of the two half-sockets (411) of the current input socket Ampère (41) can be electrically connected to a reference input socket via a series-connected main fuse (F1) and secondary fuse (F2), the secondary fuse (F2) being ~~destroyed~~ opened at a voltage ~~at least twice as small as that of~~ no more than half the voltage opening the main fuse (F1).

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Instrument~~ The instrument according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8 combined with Claim 4, characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the touch-sensitive family zones (211) are arranged in a circle.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Instrument~~ The instrument according to Claim 9, ~~characterized by the fact that it comprises~~ comprising light indicators ~~(34)~~ arranged in a circle ~~in proximate the vicinity of~~ touch-sensitive family zones ~~(211)~~, for indicating the family to which the ~~active~~ variable selected by the means for activating the measurement means belongs corresponds.